

R E M A R K S

This patent application presently includes Claims 1-6, all of which stand rejected. The claims are amended to define the applicant's invention more clearly, and all rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claims are rejected as anticipated by Shim, U.S. Patent No. 5,777,699. Shim discloses a cathode ray tube neck fixing structure which retains a circuit board 13. As best seen in Fig. 8, the circuit board 13 is inside a casing 14 mounted on a case cover 20, which is retained by a retainer 30.

This is entirely different from the present invention, where the circuit board is mounted directly on a rear cover. Moreover, the hook pieces are mounted on the rear cover and interact directly with the circuit board. As can be seen in Fig. 8 of Shim, the circuit board is inside the case 14 and spaced from cover 20, and it has absolutely no interaction with the case cover. Accordingly, the claims could not possibly read upon the structure of Shim, and the anticipation rejection must fail. Nevertheless, the discussion below applies to Shim and demonstrates unequivocally that the claimed subject matter distinguishes patentably thereover.

For convenience, the present invention will be described with reference to the admitted prior art illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7 of the application. Illustrated is a structure in which a circuit board 100 is mounted directly on a rear cover 11b. As can be seen in Figs. 6 and 7, this occurs by inserting lower hook pieces 220 in holes 120 and the upper hook pieces 210 in slide groove 110.

Referring to Fig. 7, it will be appreciated that if the lower end of the circuit board is urged towards the right while the top of the board is retained in position, the downwardly projecting hooks of upper hook pieces 210 and the upwardly projecting hooks up lower hook pieces 220 will eventually enter their respective openings and lock against the left-hand side of the circuit board, retaining it in place. However, during this manipulation, the circuit board is not well retained. It may therefore fall, or, more likely, its top may snap back towards the left, preventing mounting of the circuit board. In any event, this structure makes the assembly process cumbersome, prone to errors, and unreliable.

Referring to Figs. 8-14, it will be seen that the various embodiments of the present invention provide an effective solution to the problem described above.

In the embodiment of Fig. 8, the upper hook pieces 41 have anti-release elements 45 which project towards each other. In the embodiment of Fig. 10, the upper hook element 41 have a bridging connector 46, and in the embodiment of Fig. 12 the upper hook pieces have anti-release elements 47 which project away from each other. In each embodiment, the portion of the circuit board between adjacent slide grooves 31, 31 is captured by the respective anti-release element, and the top of the circuit board is prevented from swinging back towards the left as the circuit board is inserted.

The above described constructions are not taught or suggested by Shim or any prior art of record and, accordingly, are believed to represent patentable subject matter.

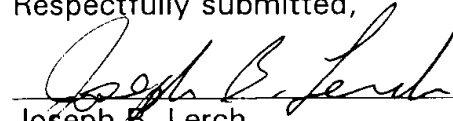
Referring now to the claims, a number of grammatical corrections and broadening amendments have been made to the claims. For example, the printed circuit board subparagraph has been broadened to recite that the slide grooves are near an edge, instead of connected to it. The upper hook subparagraphs have been amended to make a grammatical correction, in that "ends" has been changed to "end." A similar grammatical correction has been made in the first line of the lower hook subparagraph. Similarly, broadening amendments have been made in the anti-release subparagraphs in order to eliminate means-plus-function language by changing "means for" to "elements." Similarly, Claims 2, 4, and 6 were amended to eliminate means-plus-function language, thereby broadening the claims.

Claim 1 was clarified and broadened to recite that the anti-release elements project towards each other and Claim 5 was similarly clarified and broadened to recite that the anti-release elements project away from each other.

As will be clear from the preceding discussion, the present claims distinguish patentably over the admitted prior art and all art of record, at least in the definition of the anti-release element(s), the structure of which is not even remotely suggested in any art of record or the admitted prior art. Accordingly, all claims presently in this application are believed to be allowable.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that the application, as a whole, receive favorable reconsideration and that all of the claims be allowed as presently constituted. Should there remain any unanswered questions, the examiner is requested to call the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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